

I encourage the FCC to DISREGARD the suggestions to eliminate the Element 1 (Morse Code) licensing requirements and maintain the current strategy of having the no-code Technician class available. Proponents of eliminating Morse Code requirements do not have valid arguments because of this existing class of license.

I believe in order to maintain a proper level of integrity in the Amateur Radio Service we need to require Licensees to prove that they are knowledgeable, competent and dedicated enough to expend the minimal effort required to pass the tests before being awarded the associated PRIVILEGES.

The existing Technician License provides interested persons the ability to test-drive Amateur Radio so to speak and if they are truly interested and committed the ability to upgrade their license and receive increased privileges is not a difficult task.

If in fact the number of Licensees is declining as some petitioners have suggested, it is misdirected rationalization to suggest that eliminating the Morse test is the cure to this ill. Persons who use this as an excuse to avoid getting their license are not the caliber of person needed in the Amateur Service.

We must ensure that the Amateur Radio service is not viewed as a frivolous pastime.

Thank You,

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